

SALT LAKE CITY.

Interesting Talk About Utah and the Mormons.

Elizabeth Cumings in Foreword.

Salt Lake City lies in a mountain valley of exquisite majesty, and from its situation and its history is one of the most interesting places in our country. Fifty years ago, driven out of Illinois and Missouri, because of their religion, the Mormons crossed the plains, and on July twenty-fourth, 1847, Brigham Young, with a company of one hundred and forty-three persons, the vanguard of Mormonism, came through the defile in the Wasatch mountains, called Emigration Canon, and camped upon the spot where now stands the city.

They had been months on the journey. Encounters with big wolves, mountain lions, and Indians had marked the way. Sometimes they had been compelled to make a wide circuit to avoid a great herd of buffaloes. Brigham Young was ill with mountain fever. But the first day, the Mormons will tell you, he went forth, and, having surveyed the scene, he came down into what is now the very centre of the Temple, and said, "Here will be the house of our God!" Five days later two hundred Mormon emigrants arrived, and the company now possessed twenty horses, thirty-five oxen, and seventy-five cows. The country was on the confines of Mexico, but in February, 1848, it was formally ceded to the United States. There was suffering among the people the first few years. Water must be trailed from the canons, for all the bright summer the rain did not fall, and when the first crops came up, hordes and clouds of crickets came, and threatened to eat up every green thing. But down from the top of Salt Lake swept myriads of long-tailed white gulls and they ate the crickets. The first crop, however, was scanty, and the people had to eke out with roots of wild plants. The favorite was the bulb of a butterfly, known to botanists as the "Calochortus nuttallii," and named by the Mormons, "the Sego Lily." This is a reason why a fine of fifty dollars protects the head of every pretty gull in Utah, and the Sego Lily is its State flower.

At the close of the first year there were over five thousand people in the valley. April 6, 1853, the cornerstone of the great Temple was laid, and April 6, 1893, it was dedicated in great pomp.

As everything in Salt Lake starts in the Temple Block, perhaps you would like to have me describe it. It is all the blocks in the city it is a hundred and sixty feet square. The Temple stands so exactly in line with the points of the compass, that you can hold a plumb-line against the north star you would find it swing across the eastern and principal axis of the edifice. It is built of granite brought all the way from the Big Cotton-wood Canon, and covers an area of 21,850 square feet. The pinnacle of the central tower to the east is a beautiful angelic figure, with a trumpet toward the rising sun. It is made of hammered copper, and is twelve feet and one-half inches high. It is a work of art. The effect is of a being who is pausing but a moment, and will presently, even as you gaze, be away upon its shining wings. The Mormons will tell you, is "Mormon," the son of Mormon.

About the Temple is a little stretch of grass kept dazzling green, then a gravel walk, then a flower border, then a very high wrought-iron fence. Beyond the fence, there is a grassy terrace of about five feet down to the level of the rest of the enclosure. The Temple is what is called the Temple Annex, where all cases of church discipline are tried.

Directly west of the Temple is the Tabernacle. All the stories of the wonderful acoustic properties you may have heard, you can believe. It will seat ten thousand people. who can go out of it in minutes through its well-planned exits. The gothic building to the west of it is Assembly Hall, used for secret rites of the Mormon church. The completion of the Temple: All space is beautifully kept, for with flowers and grass low to grow in alkaline soil of Salt Lake. Around the enclosure is a high adobe wall, which is painted yellow, and is about five feet high.

The four streets about it are each a Temple Street, but are distinguished as East, West, North and South Temple. Then the streets are named, "1st East," "1st West," "2nd East," "2nd West," and so on. Salt Lake City corporations are very large, but the moment you name of a street you know just how far you have to go to reach the Temple block, and just about how long it is going to take you to get there, for the streets are one hundred and thirty-two feet wide, and as I have told you, the Temple block is six hundred and sixty feet square.

Douglas (the United States army post, three miles east,) and visited Salt Lake, either at Saltair or Garfield Beach, and has noted that the people look well-fed and comfortable, usually writes home that "the Mormons are just like other folks." Now, it was because they are not like other people that they went to Utah, and for that reason Utah was kept a territory, under the direct control of the Federal authority, long after its population and wealth entitled it to statehood.

It is only a shallow person who fancies that what he believes is of little moment. Our conduct is consciously or unconsciously constantly modified by what we believe. The belief of the Mormons made their conduct unendurable to the people of Ohio, where they first formed a church, at Kirtland. Driven out of Ohio, they made their way to western Missouri, where, after a little, the people drove them away, unable to endure their presence, and they found refuge in Hancock County, Illinois. There their leader, Joseph Smith, was shot, in 1844, and from thence they were driven into an exodus to what was then a savage wilderness.

I have never heard a word of Scripture read in any Mormon meeting I ever attended in Utah. The "Book of Mormon," and more especially a book called "The Book of Doctrine and Covenants," is constantly quoted. These books, they believe, contain inspired messages from God. The Mormon catechism for children teaches there are "many gods." For us "there is one God"—Adam, our father. As he, by the multitude of his descendants, has become a god to this planet, so every Mormon man who has many wives and children in this world will become a god at the resurrection. He will then be given a star to dwell in, and there, with his children, his family will continue to increase in numbers and glory forever.

For people not Mormons there is no hereafter. To be saved, one must be immersed by a duly qualified Mormon elder; and as immersion is a saving ordinance, one may be baptized for all the dead members of his family, who had not the privilege of hearing of the gospel of Joseph Smith. Nay, it is a duty to be baptized for all the dead of one's family, for not only will they by the act be saved, but they will increase the retinue of the patriarch at the last day. People go to Europe and search old records, and the tombstones in the ancient churches and burying grounds for the names of their relatives, and spend days and even weeks in the temples (there are four in Utah) being immersed for the dead. For each immersion there is a fee of two dollars, and people who do not attend to this duty have their names read out at the Sunday service, and are even severely disciplined by being deprived of water for their gardens or fields, or by having their neighbors refuse to either buy from them or sell them anything until they obey.

The heads of the church are believed to be in direct communication with Heaven. Therefore, all commands of the church must be obeyed, as the voice of God. There are three men at the head of the church. They form what is called "The First Presidency," and represent, it is whispered, "The Trinity." Mormon books say they represent Peter, James and John, the Savior's disciples. After them come the twelve apostles. Of this number the head of the Three is, by virtue of his office, one, and his vote at any time counts more than the other eleven. After the twelve comes the Patriarch. He has many subordinates. Their office is to bless the people. The blessings are always written out, and are considered "lucky to have." Each costs two dollars. Then come the presidents of the seventies. There are over eighty seventies in Utah, and each seventy has seven presidents. Besides these officers, there are high priests and bishops, teachers and deacons, so that every Mormon man holds an office of some degree in the church. Even the boys of ten and upwards are organized into circles and have their officers. Each family is visited every week, and "counseled" about its affairs. A Mormon may not move from one ward of a city to another without his Bishop's permission, without bringing upon him the censure of the church. No religious organization known exists, such minute obedience from its people as does the Mormon church. At a word from the high officials, the Mormons are bound to vote as one, for any measure or any man indicated. It is in this fact, with the methods the church has used, and still uses to enforce its will, that has made them intolerable neighbors. It is said they have changed. Deny it who will, they have only become more subtle, and are still a growing menace to our commonwealth. The strong hand of the law, cannot effect the change most vital to Utah. Our quiet missionaries are the only agents who can produce it. Let us help them all we can.

Diversify and Prosper.

A Dallas letter to the Chicago Record says:

"Within 60 days thousands of tenant farmers in the central, or black-wax, belt of Texas—the richest agricultural section of the State—have deserted their mature cotton crops because they could earn more money by picking cotton for wages than by gathering their own crops and paying the rent. This has forced landlords upon whose hands rented farms were thrown back to import negro labor from south Texas to pick the deserted crops; and the cost of picking, which at the beginning of the season was 35 cents a hundred pounds, has advanced to 50 cents. Reports from Arkansas tell of similar conditions there. The acute distress caused by four-cent cotton may easily be appreciated when it is stated that the average cash yield of the staple at this price is less than \$9 an acre, gross. Out of this the tenant pays one-fourth to the landlord, and if he hires the cotton picked, about \$3 an acre goes for that expense. The net result to the farmer is less than \$4 an acre, and this pittance is more than exhausted if he is compelled to hire help to plant and cultivate the crop. The best authorities agree that the day when cotton would pay wages to the producer passed when the price dropped below seven cents a pound."

This seems to be a somewhat exaggerated statement, but even allowing for some coloring there is enough in it to give pause to the cotton-toters of our own State. If cotton has fallen to a price which benumbs and disheartens Texas itself what folly it is for South Carolina to persist in relying on it! Here we have not the rich soil of Texas and must go to heavy expense in fertilizing our cotton fields. Because of our local mill demand and our greater proximity to the northern and European markets we receive a somewhat higher price than the Texan planters do; but the difference is not sufficient to offset the advantage they have in their far more productive soil—they can make more cotton at less cost than we can. Moreover, Texas determines the price of the crop, and this we cannot do. So great is the industry in that State, and so vast is the yet unplanted area adapted peculiarly to cotton culture, that it is now and must continue to be the cheapest producer of the staple; and the price will fall to the figure at which Texas can afford to make it.

If all our 1,000,000-bale crop were wiped out it could hardly make a difference of half a cent a pound in the price of the remainder, so we cannot encourage the hope that even concerted and successful action in South Carolina to reduce the crop would have an appreciable effect on the price. We ought to look at it from another standpoint, from the standpoint of the individual, each farmer for himself—and let each for himself, without regard to the action of others, resolve to rely no longer upon a crop which is no longer profitable.

South Carolina has not the excuse of necessity which States farther west have for planting mainly of cotton. Her soil and climate are adapted to many other farm products and nature points to her ultimate destiny as a State of agricultural variety. She has much variety in soils, in climate, in elevation. She is near the great markets where many products are in demand, and she is with her mills building up important home markets. How many things besides cotton she can raise at a profit! The whole range of farm enterprise is before her—tobacco, hay, wheat, oats, rice; fruits of many varieties, vegetables of all kinds; dairy and apian products, cattle, horses, hogs, sheep, poultry; corn, peas, cane, sweet potatoes; the list is endless. Everything that the north can produce and many sub-tropical products are within our range. All produced now—to a limited extent—but cotton to an unlimited degree. What but a lazy conservatism and a timorous temper prevents us from extending our attention to all these products and others besides, while giving cotton no more than a fair place in the list?

This State is to be, must sometime be, a State of small farms and greatly diversified products, and the sooner we resolve to meet our destiny half-way the sooner we will prosper. There is money in everything we have named and more besides—money in moderate ventures, much money in the combination of moderate ventures. Diversification is the keynote of our farm duty. With a variety of products the losses on one or two or three which must always be looked for will not count against our general prosperity. We will have many supports, many sources of assured income.

The text is an old one but it cannot be preached from too often, and it is more needed now than ever. The farm which supplies its own needs and has a little of many things to sell is a farm which can defy the gold standard, because it is itself a gold mine.—Columbia State.

—Truth is stranger than fiction to most people probably because they don't care for an introduction.

Glad News for Lee's Corps.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 30.—Major Gen. Fitzhugh Lee is here to receive his final instructions from the President and Secretary of War before starting for Cuba with the 7th corps. Mrs. Lee has sufficiently recovered from her recent illness to warrant Gen. Lee in proceeding to Savannah and resuming command of his corps. It is the present understanding that Gen. Lee and his command will leave Savannah for Cuba not later than November 3. To this end the Government has been assembling transports, of which it has 14 on the Atlantic coast, inclusive of the line steamers from New York to San Juan.

Both the reports of Col. Lee and Col. Hecker, who have been in Cuba for some weeks selecting respectively camps and landing places, have been received, and for a better understanding of the situation have been ordered to report at Washington at once. The camp sites have been selected on the high lands about Havana, though necessarily a garrison will be stationed in Havana also. The camps will be ideal spots, and have been laid out after the most modern and scientific methods.

In the matter of landing places, Secretary Alger says the use of lighters will be avoided. Only deep water harbors with ample pier facilities will be used for landing the troops, when necessary requisite improvements will be made, and to this end material will be at once forwarded both for piers and for the establishment of camps. Among the points recommended by Col. Hecker outside of Havana and Gibara, are Mariel and Matanzas. Besides these points attention will be given to Manzanillo, where it has been determined to establish an important garrison, under the command of Col. Pettit now there with the 4th regiment of immunes. Although Gen. Lee will be in command, his corps will be scattered at such points as they are needed. The cavalry division at Huntsville, which has been ordered to Savannah, will sail with the corps for Cuba. The greater part of the troops will land at Havana, and Gen. Lee is expected to go at the head of these. Besides the garrison at Manzanillo, there will in all probability be a garrison established at Aoguin also.

No trouble is feared with the insurgents, who will be fed with reasonable regard for their good, under the direction of American officers.

A constabulary, composed mostly of Cubans, will be established in the agricultural districts, and the cities will be policed by our own troops.

Following the recommendations submitted by the late Col. Waring, the problem of draining the country districts and cleaning up the cities will be a formidable one. Many suggestions were given on this point by Gen. Luston, under whose administration the city of Santiago has been so transformed. In this great undertaking much help will be needed, and Cuban labor will be availed of as far as it is possible. The number of United States troops to go forward immediately will not be more than 15,000, and it is thought by Gen. Miles that no large number will be needed. The duties, it is thought, will be found lighter and less extended than it was anticipated, and it is not thought wise to expose now any more troops to the climate than are necessary.—News and Courier.

The Backbiter Loses.

"He who tries, directly or indirectly, to injure another in business or reputation is always, eventually, the loser. The injured one, if he maintains his integrity, will come out of the furnace without the smell of fire on him, while the other will bear the taint of the intruder. Some men are, morally, coarse-grained and have a conscience seared with selfishness. They lack that nice sense of moral propriety which leads to a practical recognition of the golden rule: Doing unto others as they would like others to do unto them. They will perpetuate a petty, mean act without a qualm of conscience or a solitary disturbing emotion. Having done an injury and being aware of it they never betray the possession of the spirit of true manliness by a frank acknowledgment of the same.—Baltimore Advocate.

The Wrong Hat.

Edinburg University is said to be remarkable for its scarcity of cloaks, rooms, and in the excitement of examination time hats are thrown down everywhere, even on the examiner's desk. "Harper's Round Table" tells a good anecdote of an examiner who had made himself obnoxious by warning the pupils not to put any hats on his desk.

The examiner finally announced one day that if he ever found another hat on his desk he would rip it up. The next day no hats were laid there when the students assembled. Presently, however, the examiner was called out of the room. When some naughty undergraduate slipped from his seat, got the examiner's own hat, and placed it on his desk. When the examiner re-entered the hall every eye was fixed upon him. He observed the hat, and a gleam of triumph shot across his face.

"Gentlemen," he said, "I told you what would happen if this occurred again." Then he took his penknife from his pocket, opened it and badly cut the hat in pieces, amid prolonged applause. What he said when he discovered that he had destroyed his own hat the story does not say.

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Increase of Regular Army.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 1.—The request of the First Colorado Infantry to be returned from Manila to the United States cannot be granted by the war department. It was stated by officers of the army to-day that such request had been frequent from soldiers of volunteer organizations who enlisted to fight, but did not enlist for garrison duty. The desire of this regiment to return home was simply the desire of other volunteers. Nothing could be done, an officer said, until Congress met and provided some kind of a force to take the place of volunteers.

The subject of reorganizing the army with a view to serving an adequate force for the new possessions of the United States has already received the serious consideration of the President, the Secretary of War and officers of the army. The President will make recommendations to Congress on this subject, embodying his views and the views of those who are in position to give him the very best advice. It is probable that he will recommend an increase of the army to something like 100,000 men, although this is not certain, and he may think 75,000 is enough.

There has been some talk also of using for garrison duty two companies or a battalion of natives to each regiment doing garrison duty in Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Philippines. It is believed by this method a considerable portion of the restless population of the islands, and especially those who have been bearing arms in the insurgent or Spanish armies, could be kept quiet and law-abiding. It is stated by officers of the army that the duties devolving upon the troops under the new order of things cannot be satisfactory to volunteers, and that an army will have to be provided which will go where it is sent without complaints of any kind. Men who enlist in the regular army hereafter will understand that they are likely to be called upon at any time to go out of the country and to garrison distant lands for long periods. It is believed that the demands which have been made upon Senators and Representatives for the muster out of volunteer regiments which have remained in the service has been so great that they will be convinced that a regular army for garrison duty in the new possessions is an absolute necessity.

The Jews in Palestine.

VIENNA, Nov. 1.—The Pester Lloyd learns from St. Petersburg that a Jewish paper in that capital has received information from Palestine that the Turkish authorities there have been ordered from Constantinople to see that no real estate in Palestine should pass into the hands of Jews, even if they are Turkish subjects, and that in consequence of this order all transactions in landed property in the name of the colonies projected by Baron Rothschild and Hirsch and the Israeli Alliance have been stopped. The above news is confirmed from other sources, and this harsh measure is, doubtless, connected with the Zionist movement and the resolutions of the two congresses at Basel, at which it was proclaimed that the Jews would once again constitute a nation and a State, and make Palestine their future home. As the establishment of a Jewish bank, with a large capital, was announced at the same time, the Sultan naturally regards his Province of Palestine as a better asset than it ever was, and by restricting Jewish emigration and colonization he may hope to raise the price of eventual consent to the Zionist programme. Not only, however, is the selling of land in Palestine to Jews prohibited, but impediments are also placed in the way of Jews of different nationalities who may wish to visit Palestine as travelers. This is a totally different question, which touches the treaty rights of Jewish subjects of various Christian countries.

It is, for instance, forbidden to Jews to proceed from Jaffa to Jerusalem, or to other places in Palestine, unless a Non-Jewish resident of Jaffa guarantees that the visitors in question will leave Palestine again within thirty days of their arrival. Such guarantees must, of course, be paid for, and will in many cases open a way to corruption and blackmailing. I saw, a few days ago, in a German paper, that an energetic protest will reach the Porte from the German embassy at Constantinople against the violation of the rights of German subjects, irrespective of their creed; and it may be assumed that a similar protest will be made from Austria-Hungary, as the violation of treaty rights in the matter of Jews would certainly lead to the violation of similar rights in reference to Protestants or people of other denominations, and of the rights of Europeans in general. The facts, of course, would first have to be ascertained, and should they turn out as reported, an energetic protest on the part of all European Powers would be out of place.—London Standard.

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